

2009 Recommendation Status Report

North Carolina Study Commission on Aging
Recommendations
to the
2009 Regular Session



*Prepared by Staff for the
North Carolina Study Commission on Aging*

January 7, 2010

2009 RECOMMENDATION STATUS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION	RESULT
<p><u>Recommendation 1:</u> Strengthen Disaster Planning for Long-Term Care Facilities</p> <p>In response to the Disability and Elderly Emergency Management (DEEM) Task Force recommendations, the Study Commission on Aging recommends that the General Assembly direct the Division of Health Service Regulation, Department of Health and Human Services, to review the DEEM recommendations, take appropriate action to strengthen disaster planning and disaster preparedness for long-term care facilities, and to report to the Study Commission on Aging and the Joint Select Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Recovery, on or before March 1, 2010.</p>	<p>In response to this recommendation, HB 143 and SB 193 were introduced. HB 143 passed third reading in the House and was referred to Senate Health Care. SB 193 was referred to Senate Health Care.</p> <p>(Note: The Division of Health Service Regulation, DHHS, has determined they have statutory authority to address the issues of facility disaster planning in this recommendation. DHHS indicates that they are collaborating with the NC Division of Emergency Management to develop a universal disaster planning template that will include all regulated facilities, including long-term care.)</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 2:</u> Additional HCCBG funds</p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging recommends that the General Assembly appropriate an additional \$2,500,000 for both FY 2009-2010 and FY 2010-2011 to the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Human Services, for the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG).</p>	<p>In response to this recommendation, HB 142 and SB 185 were introduced. HB 142 received a favorable report from the House Aging Committee and was referred to House Appropriations. SB 185 was referred to Senate Appropriations. No additional funding was approved.</p> <p>(Note: The budget contains a \$500,000 reduction in State appropriations for FY 2009-2010 and FY 2010-2011. The budget also contains a reduction in State appropriations of \$1,384,392 for FY 2009-2010, which is anticipated to be offset by federal recovery funds for senior nutrition services.)</p>

RECOMMENDATION	RESULT
<p><u>Recommendation 3: Senior Center Funding</u></p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging recommends that the General Assembly appropriate an additional \$750,000 for both FY 2009-2010 and FY 2010-2011 to the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Human Services for certified senior centers.</p>	<p>In response to this recommendation, HB 141 and SB 191 were introduced. HB 141 received a favorable report from the House Aging Committee and was referred to House Appropriations. SB 191 was referred to Senate Appropriations. No additional funding was approved.</p> <p>(On a related note, the budget contains the elimination of a \$100,000 in funding for FY 2009-10 and FY 2010-11 for the Senior Center Outreach Program which was used to promote use of services through senior centers.)</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 4: Adult Protective Services Pilot Program</u></p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging recommends that the General Assembly appropriate \$2,208,763 for FY 2009-2010 and \$2,162,409 for FY 2010-2011 to the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Human Services, to fund a two-year pilot program to assess proposed changes to the adult protective services statutes, and require the Division to make an interim report in April 2010, and a final report on the evaluation of the pilot by October 1, 2011.</p>	<p>In response to this recommendation, HB 146 and SB 189 were introduced. HB 146 received a favorable report from the House Aging Committee and was referred to House Appropriations. SB 189 was referred to Senate Appropriations. No funding was approved.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	RESULT
<p><u>Recommendation 5: Special Care Dentistry</u></p> <p>Recommendation 5(a): Support Division of Medical Assistance, DHHS efforts to increase dental care providers</p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging supports continued efforts by the Division of Medical Assistance, Department of Health and Human Services, to increase the number of dental care providers serving special care populations.</p> <p>Recommendation 5(b): Special Care Dentistry Collaboration</p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging recommends that the General Assembly direct the Division of Medical Assistance, Division of Public Health, and the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Human Services, to collaborate with the UNC and ECU Schools of Dentistry, the North Carolina Dental Society, and current special care providers to examine the limited dental care options for special care populations and to make recommendations for improvement to the Study Commission on Aging and the Public Health Study Commission on or before February 1, 2010.</p> <p>Recommendation 5(c): Dentistry Funds for Special Care Populations</p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging recommends that the General Assembly appropriate \$200,000 for both FY 2009-2010 and FY 2010-2011, to the Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services, to purchase an additional mobile dental unit in each fiscal year for a new or existing non-profit mobile dental care provider who must operate the mobile dental unit to serve special care populations, the frail elderly, and developmentally disabled, in geographic areas of the State that are not currently served by mobile dental units.</p>	<p>No legislation was introduced in response to this recommendation.</p> <p>In response to this recommendation, HB 144 and SB 188 were introduced. S.L. 2009-100 was enacted and directs the Division of Public Health, within the Department of Health and Human Services, to collaborate with the Division of Medical Assistance, the Division of Aging and Adult Services, the State's Schools of Dentistry, the North Carolina Dental Society, and special care dental providers to examine current dental care options for special care populations. The Department is required to report findings and recommendations to the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging and the Public Health Study Commission on or before February 1, 2010.</p> <p>In response to this recommendation, HB 139 and SB 187 were introduced. HB 139 received a favorable report from the House Aging Committee and was referred to House Appropriations. SB 187 was referred to Senate Appropriations. No funding was approved.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	RESULT
<p><u>Recommendation 6: Adult Day Care Reimbursement Rate Increase</u></p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging recommends that the General Assembly appropriate an additional \$1,059,561 for both FY 2009-2010 and FY 2010-2011, to the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Human Services to provide a \$5.00 per day rate increase for adult day care and adult day health care.</p>	<p>In response to this recommendation, HB 138 and SB 194 were introduced. HB 138 received a favorable report from the House Aging Committee and was referred to House Appropriations. SB 187 was referred to Senate Appropriations. No additional funding was provided.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 7: Funds for Project C.A.R.E</u></p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging recommends that the General Assembly appropriate \$500,000 for both FY 2009-2010 and FY 2010-2011, to the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Human Services, to fund Project C.A.R.E. with the intent that this funding shall become part of the continuation budget.</p>	<p>In response to this recommendation, HB 145 and SB 190 were introduced. HB 145 received a favorable report from the House Aging Committee and was referred to House Appropriations. SB 190 was referred to Senate Appropriations.</p> <p>S.L. 2009-451 appropriated \$500,000 for FY 2009-10 and for FY 2010-11 for Project C.A.R.E.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 8: Preparing for Increased Numbers of Older Adults</u></p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging recommends that the UNC Institute on Aging and the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Human Services, take a leadership role in helping North Carolina prepare for increased numbers of older adults by: 1) organizing and facilitating meetings of gerontologists, researchers, county representatives, directors of Area Agencies on Aging, and providers of State services, to collectively identify and prioritize issues the State needs to address; and 2) working with the Association of County Commissioners, the UNC School of Government, higher education departments of municipal and regional planning and their partners, and Area Agencies on Aging to establish a website containing: a) information on fostering retiree and volunteer involvement, and b) models of local planning efforts, in order to assist municipalities in addressing accessibility and service delivery for increasing numbers of older adults. The Institute on Aging and the Division of Aging and Adult Services shall make progress reports to the Governor and the Study Commission on Aging on or before March 1, 2010, and on or before November 1, 2010.</p>	<p>In response to this recommendation, HB 273 and SB 195 were introduced.</p> <p>S.L. 2009-407 was enacted and directs the UNC Institute on Aging and the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Human Services, take a leadership role in helping North Carolina prepare for increased numbers of older adults. The Institute on Aging and the Division of Aging and Adult Services are required to make progress reports to the Governor and the Study Commission on Aging on or before March 1, 2010, and on or before November 1, 2010.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	RESULT
<p><u>Recommendation 9: Adult Care Home Mixed Population Workgroup</u></p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging recommends that the General Assembly direct the Division of Health Service Regulation, the Division of Medical Assistance, and the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Human Services, to assemble a workgroup of adult care home specialists and long-term care ombudsmen that work with adult care homes serving significant populations of both mentally ill residents and the frail elderly, to develop short-term and long-term strategies for improving the quality of care for all residents, and to make recommendations to the Study Commission on Aging and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services on or before August 1, 2010.</p>	<p>In response to this recommendation, HB 147 and SB 196 were introduced. HB 147 received a favorable report from the House Aging Committee and was referred to the House Health Committee. SB 196 was referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.</p> <p>S.L. 2009-451, Section 10.78(ff) 3, was enacted and directs the NC Institute of Medicine to develop short-term and long-term strategies to address issues within adult care homes that provide residence to persons who are frail and elderly and to persons suffering from mental illness.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 10: Adult Care Home Quality Improvement Pilot Program on Medication Safety</u></p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging recommends that the General Assembly direct the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Health and Human Services, for FY 2009-2010 and FY 2010-2011, to use the recurring funding associated with the Adult Care Home Quality Improvement Program to accomplish the following: 1) a post pilot analysis to determine whether medication safety is sustained after the initial phases of the medication safety pilot program and to develop findings on what fosters or prohibits sustained improvements; 2) utilization of the lessons learned from this medication safety pilot to deliver medication safety training sessions, train the trainer programs, or online training in adult care homes that did not participate in the pilot program; 3) evaluation of the effectiveness of this training; and 4) an interim report to the Study Commission on Aging on or before February 1, 2010, with a final report due on or before October 1, 2010.</p>	<p>In response to this recommendation, HB 140 and SB 192 were introduced. HB 140 was referred to the House Aging Committee and SB 192 was referred to the Senate Health Care Committee. This program was identified for elimination, so this bill was not actively pursued.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	RESULT
<p><u>Recommendation 11:</u> Support for Changes to Guardianship Laws</p> <p>The Study Commission on Aging supports the seven remaining recommendations that have not yet been enacted from the report of the House Study Committee on State Guardianship Laws to the 2007 North Carolina House of Representatives.</p>	<p>No legislation was introduced in response to this recommendation.</p>